


No. 9385	號五十三百三千九第	日二十二月十年三十緒光	HONGKONG, TUESDAY, DA CHUAN, 8th, 1887.	二拜禮	號六月二十英港香	PRICE 22 PER MONTH
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PRICE \$2½ PER MONTH

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

THEATRE ROYAL.



CITY HALL.

THURSDAY EVENING,
the 8th December, 1887.

THE LEO MINSTREL TROUPE O
H. M. S. LEANDELL,
will give a Performance for the
Benefit of the WIDOW and FAMILY of
DECEASED SHIPMAATE, late of the LEO TROUPE

The Performances will be
Under the Patronage of His Excellency
the GOVERNOR,
COMMODORE MAXWELL, R.N.,
CAPT. M. J. J. MUNRO, OFFICERS
H. M. S. Leander.

The First Part will consist of
MINSTREL SONGS, &c.
The Second Part will include a Sketch
"OUT OF PLACE"
and an Original Police Parade Song "The A
Division Parade"

PRICE OF ADMITS.

Dress Circle	\$1.50.
Stalls	1.00.
Front Seats	50.

Book Street 20.

Tickets at KELLY & WALSH'S.
Doors Open at 5. Commences at 9.
Hongkong, 6th December, 1887. 139

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF
HONGKONG.

PROBATE JURISDICTION.

IN THE GOODS OF WILLIAM DICKINSON
Deceased.

ALL CLAIMS against the above Estate must be sent to the Supreme Court, or before the 25th day of January, 1888, at which date no Claims will be entertained.

7th
 of
 1887.
 2361) Dated the 5th day of December, 1887.
 ALFRED G. WISE,
 Official Administrator
 IN THE SUPREME COURT OF
 HONGKONG.
 PROBATE JURISDICTION.
 IN THE GOODS OF SOPHY GOLDENBUE
 Deceased.
ALL CLAIMS against the above Estate must be sent to the Supreme Court, at or before the 25th day of February, 1888, at which time no claims will be entertained.
 Dated the 5th day of December, 1887.
 ALFRED G. WISE,
 Official Administrator
 2362) TO IRONWORK CONTRACTORS.
THE HONGKONG & CHINA GA and
 are prepared to receive
 for the best
 Roof with Corrugated Iron Sheets (New S
 supplied by Company) at their Works, W
 Point, Hongkong.
 Satisfaction may be seen and all parties
 obtained upon application to the undersigned
 Teachers to be delivered or before SATUR
 14th December.
 F. W. CROSS

Manager.
Hongkong, 6th December, 1887. [2]

FOR SALE.

BRITISH BARQUE

"NARDOO"
379 Tons Register, with SAILS and INVENTORY
Tons complete.
For Particulars apply to the CAPTAIN
Beard, or to
WIELER & CO
Agents. [2]

Hongkong, 6th December, 1887. [2]

CHINA NAVIGATION COMPANY
LIMITED.

FOR NAGASAKI, KOBE, AND
YOKOHAMA.

THE Company's Steamship

"WOOSUNG"

A. Vardin-Commander, will be despatched
above TO-DAY, the 6th instant,
TUESDAY.

For Freight or Passage, apply to
BUTTERFIELD & SWIRE, Agents
Hongkong, 5th December, 1887.

THE CHINA & MANILA STEAMSHIP
COMPANY, LIMITED.

THE COMPANY'S Steamship

"DIAMANTE."

Captain McCallin, will be despatched for
above Port TO-DAY, the 5th instant
FOUR P.M.

For Freight or Passage, apply to
RUSSELL & Co.
General Managers.

Hongkong, 5th December, 1871.

**CHINA NAVIGATION COMPANY
LIMITED.**

FOR PORT DARWIN, SYDNEY, A
MELBOURNE.

THE Company Steamship

"CHINGTO."

J. D. C. Arthur, Commander, will be despatched
above on THURSDAY, the 5th instant
FOUR P.M.

The attention of Passengers is directed to
superior Accommodation offered by
Steamer. First-class Cabin, and Cabin
situated forward of the Engine. Second
passengers are berthed in the Poop. A
generating Chamber ensures the supply of
Hot Water for the voyage. A
qualified Surgeon is carried.

For Freight or Passage, apply to

BUTTERFIELD & SWIRE, Agents
Hongkong, 5th December, 1887.

THE "GLEN" LINE OF STEAMERS
FOR SYDNEY, MELBOURNE, AND ADELAIDE.
 (Taking through Cargo for QUEENSLAND, POSTS, TASMANIA, NEW ZEALAND, &c.)
The British Steamer

"GULF OF ADEN."
 Captain Allan, due here on the 9th inst. with great Cargo from JAPAN will be despatched as above, on TUESDAY, the 13th inst. at FIVE P.M.

Attention is directed to the Steamer's **comfortable Saloons and FIRST ROOMS, which afford excellent Accommodation for First Passengers.**

Fare to Sydney or Melbourne \$150
 To be followed by the Steamer T. ar. next month.

For Freight or Passage, apply to
GIBB, LYVINGTON & CO.
Hongkong, 6th December, 1887.

"GLEN" LINE OF STEAM PACKETS
FOR LONDON VIA SUEZ CANAL
The Steamship

"GLENSHIEL,"
 Captain Donaldson, will be despatched as
 on or about the 14th December.
 This Steamer has superior Accommoda-
 for Passengers, and carries a Doctor
 Stewards.
 For Freight or Passage, apply to
 JARDINE, MATHESON & CO
 Agents.
 Hongkong, 6th December, 1887.

TO BE LET.

ROOMS IN "COLLIER CHAMBERS."
GODOWN IN ICE HOUSE LANE, from the 1st January, at present in the occupation of Messrs. BUTTERFIELD & SWIRE.
Apply to
DAVID SASSOON, SONS & Co.
Hongkong, 26th July, 1886.

HOUSE No. 1, BAIL'S COURT, Bonham Road.
Apply to
BELLIOS & Co.
Hongkong, 2nd December, 1887. [2337]

THE PREMISES
247 Queen's Road East.
Apply to
LINSTEAD & DAVIS.
Hongkong, 21st October, 1887. [2028]

THE DESIRABLE RESIDENCE known as "STOWFORD,"
Benham Road.
Apply to
LINSTEAD & DAVIS.
Hongkong, 16th August, 1887. [1586]

FURNISHED HOUSE in thorough repair with TENNIS COURT.
Apply to
MR. WILLMOTT,
Hongkong Dispensary.
Hongkong, 23rd November, 1887. [2320]

FURNISHED HOUSE at the PEAK, for Four Months.
Apply to
ALFRED G. WISE.
Hongkong, 1st December, 1887. [2500]

ONE LARGE GODOWN at WANCHAI.
Apply to
E. D. SASSOON & Co.
Hongkong, 1st December, 1887. [2331]

HONGKONG WHARF & GODOWN.
Goods received on STORAGE at Moderate Rates, in First-class Godowns.
STEAMER CARGOES discharged on favourable terms.
Also Entire GODOWNS to LET.
Apply to
MEYER & Co.
Hongkong, 2nd July, 1887. [1272]

SUITE OF ROOMS fronting the Prince and Princes Street, on the Ground Floor of Building recently occupied by Messrs. MEYER & Co.
These Premises are well adapted for OFFICES or STORES.
ROOMS on the First and Second Floors of Marine House.
BISNEZ VILLA, POKFULUX GODOWN at BOWENSTOWN.
Apply to
SHARP & Co.,
Marine House.
Hongkong, 17th October, 1887. [1343]

INTIMATIONS.
PUBLICATION
Of an Original Story by
WALTER BESANT.

W E are gratified at being able to announce to our Readers that, by special arrangement with the Author, the New Story upon which **WALTER BESANT** is now engaged, has been secured for Original Publication in the "HONGKONG DAILY PRESS."

The title of the Story is
HERR PAULUS.
HIS RISE, HIS GREATNESS, AND HIS FALL.
By
WALTER BESANT.
Author of "All Sorts and Conditions of Men," &c., &c.
THE OPENING INSTALMENT appeared in the "HONGKONG DAILY PRESS" on SATURDAY (OCTOBER 15th) of the

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\$23.00 per case of 2 dozen quarts.
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\$30.00 per case of 12 dozen quarts.
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SIEMSEN & Co.
Hongkong, 1st January, 1888. [139]

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"SINGER" SEWING MACHINES.
Apply to
W. G. HUMPHREYS & Co.,
Bank Buildings.
Hongkong, 1st January, 1888. [33]

CHAMPAGNE "MONOPOLE."
HIDSBICK & Co.
Do. "see" Red Foil (medium dry).
Do. "see" Red Foil (dry).
Do. "see" Gold Foil (extra dry).
CARLOWITZ & Co.,
Sole Agents for
HONGKONG, CHINA, AND JAPAN.
Hongkong, 21st July, 1885. [1263]

3 CYLINDRICAL TUBULAR GUN-BOAT'S BOLLERS, 160 H.P. each, with fittings, tested to 150 lbs. to the square inch, and suitable for a vessel of 400 tons, or would be very suitable for driving stationary engines. 6 Cornish BOLLERS 18 ft. long by 6 ft. in diameter, double riveted, with 4 Galway's Patent Tubes, each 12 ft. long, 18 in. diameter, 2 Steam Pumps, 2 Vertical LANCER ENGINES and BOLLERS, 2 Vertical BOLLERS, 1 Steam Fire ENGINE BOLLER, 1 6-H.P. ENGINE, 2 Steam Pumps, 2 Horizontal and 2 Diagonal Steam WINCHES, 1 Large Patent Mangle, 1 Large Patent Mangle, 1 Patent Fan BLOWER, 5 Bona Taps and Dies, 2 Weston's Patent Blocks, 4 and 8 foot 2 double acting Heavy Pumps, 1 1,000 Gallon Water TANK, 1 Bradford's Patent STEAM LAUNDRY, capable of washing about 1,500 pieces per day, with Boiler and Engine, 1 New Hand-Power Patent STEEL FLOUR MILL, by Parsons of Worcester, 1 New Patent Hand-Power Rock SHELTER MACHINE, by Nicholson, of Newcastle-on-Tyne. All the above Machinery are new or as good as new.

For further Particulars, apply to
J. M. ARMSTRONG,
Auctioneer,
Queen's Road.
Hongkong, 24th June, 1887. [1226]

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REDUCED TO 1/6.
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Hongkong, 20th February, 1887. [438]

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THE CEMETERIES AND SICKNESS
IN HONGKONG.

The exceptional sickness which has prevailed during the last summer and autumn, during that of 1886 not only justified, but rendered imperative, the use of the new engines, all the efforts which are being made to discover the cause of the disease being to do this immediately, but every contribution of fact or opinion is very valuable, and tends to the ultimate elucidation of the matter which is at present shrouded in mystery. Many suppose that the deficient rainfall of the last two years has not a little to do with the prevalence of fever cases; the same concurrence having been observed twenty years ago, when there was no rain during May and June. Much has naturally emanated from the sewer openings. Were these perfectly innocuous, which can hardly for a moment be supposed, the annoyance which they cause would call loudly for their removal.

There is, however, another matter to which no allusion has, as yet, been made publicly, but which we believe deserves the most serious attention of the Government, and of all those who are now showing such lively interest in the sanitation of the Colony; we allude to cemeteries, and the burial of the dead in Hongkong. For many years past a strong feeling has been existing, and against intrusions of this kind, and as a consequence, Chinese burial grounds in England have been closed, and retired resting places for the dead have been provided in some instances at a considerable distance from the centre of population. It may be long ere the British will bring themselves, to take a lesson from their Indian fellow subjects, but unless are clear and well defined limits be further the dead are now being the living the better. Hongkong has already in its short history of four decades overtaken its gradual process of extension some four or five cemeteries which at one time were far out of town, and which are now surrounded by houses. This is not a desirable thing from a sanitary point of view, yet we are now doing simply what our predecessors have done during the last forty years. We continue to bury our dead in places, both at the present day, and in the past, which we are daily foreseen will be in the close proximity to more or less densely populated quarters, or encroached upon by building operations within the next ten or twenty years.

The whole of Mount Davis, almost adjoining Kennedy Town, is one vast cemetery to the west. A great and daily expanding portion of the Wung-nei-chong valley is another vast cemetery, now close to the town and still closer to the new building sites proposed to be opened up south of the Victoria Park Estate. It is a well known maxim in Asiatic countries that "the air over cemeteries is eternally contaminated," and hence whenever we step out on to our verandahs to get a mouthful of fresh air, be the wind east or west, and especially the latter, we have the unpleasant consciousness of inhaling an atmosphere of graveyard air. The Chinese maxim in regard to the "evil influence" of the cemetery was strongly stated in a late introduction to Parkes's Manual of Practical Hygiene, to the effect that "the disturbance of an old graveyard given rise to disease, and it is a matter of notoriety that the vicinity of graveyards is unhealthy." We do not go so far as to say that the upturning of the old Maboocoo cemetery in the last year caused the epidemic of cholera and other malarial fevers in the immediate vicinity, but that it had a share, together with other causes unknown or imperfectly known, in the trouble which arose in that neighborhood; there is little room for doubt. There is another small cemetery which appears to have been encroached upon within late years by building operations in the neighbourhood of the French Consulate and St. Francis' Hospital, and which may have some connection with the unhealthiness of that part of town. But these are trifles compared with the momentous fact that in the near and west we have vast cemeteries where digging is constantly going on, where graves are frequently reopened, and where the bones of many may be bruised and scattered. For many of the last few years the ground the steps of which have to be cut in terraces not more than six feet wide, and during heavy rains has been washed, disturbing the interiors of graves, are of occasional occurrence. The accidents occur too at the hottest periods of the year, with most injurious effects. The extensive cemetery which has recently been opened up at the Barrill Bay at Plover Point is directly in the line for future attacks from the south-west monsoon. The recent

the south-west border of the island round the hill at West Point carries the air from the Mount Davis series to that portion of the town, mingling also with it the evil odours that vicious storehouse of dead bodies and the hidden in a gully above the town of Kennedy Street. The *quasi* benevolence of the Tang Wah Hospital committee in providing funds for missions in the heart of Tientsin, and deep down, as the clouds of the Mount Davis School in search for human prey, we consider, open to very grave objections. The building sits of this island is limited; the population continues to increase by the influx of Chinese, and in a year to come the border communities are simultaneously enlarged whilst the town goes on moving nearer to their very boundaries, and thus we are burying our dead in the same ground as every year thousands of new arrivals who do not belong to the community.

Surely the sooner the whole question is taken up and considered from the sanitary future of the better. We would deliberately advocate the closing of all cemeteries on the coast and the removal of our dead in the way to the greatest practical distance from the coast. The only place is a wide extent of land on the frontier line of Kowloon peninsula away from all habitations, composed of a chain of hills running far back of Yumtai, all along to the neighbourhood of Kowloon city. Here an area might be laid out and all the Chinese; road cutting and trees would speedily change the appearance and make it attractive to the people. There is space available for the locality thus acquiring the Happy Valley in quality of scenery and adaptability for gardening might be selected, and the Army and Navy and the foreign population early might bury their dead in the neighbourhood. One great advantage which this location would possess would be its position to forward dust, southwest monsoon. It is the heat which appears so much to identify the injuriousness of grave exhalations, and also the heavy rains in the hot months which by their streams cut into the recently excavated precipitous hillsides. Burials can

been made far up the slope, and no information may be given of disinterments which are thus naturally guesed, the results of which upon a contiguous and crowded population may be disastrous. The proposed Bowen Park and the Race Course would gain in popularity as a health resort and the Causeway Bay reclamation be rendered less salubrious by the closing of the beach and but dangerously near cemeteries. The objection to the proposed plan of bringing our cemeteries to the present site of the King of Kowloon would be the very occasional difficulty of crossing the harbour in bad weather. There are now, however, so many steam-ferries running regularly between the town and several points of the Kowloon peninsula that, except in extraordinary stress of weather, communication is ready, constant and cheap. Specially considered, the launches would reduce to a minimum, and in extreme cases temporary suspension in a mortuary on the south side of the Island might be availed of as a last resort. Anyhow we must remove our cemeteries to a greater distance if we would improve or even maintain our present sanitary condition. We seriously commend these suggestions to the consideration of the Government and the Sanitary Board. We cannot possibly do so long with our present system without injury mischief in the future. The matter is, we believe, one of the most urgent forcing itself upon public attention in the most painful manner, and the sooner a radical change is made the better for the health and the longer for the lives of all.

The suggestion thrown out by our respondent "British Kowloon" is to the effect that instead of forming a vast cemetery on the northern part of the Kowloon peninsula, a cemetery should be made on some of the neighbouring islet would be more practicable. Our respondent does not point out, however, that he deems suitable for the purpose, and we fail to discover one among the dependencies of the colony that would suffice. Stonecutter's Island is occupied by forts, the lazarette, and the Eastern Magazine; and Apichien, which is required for the purpose of the Eastern Magazine, and its limited area of land. Lamau Island would do admirably for the purpose, but unfortunately, though geographically a dependency of Hongkong, it does not appear to have been acquired with it. The omission is unaccountable, and it was obviously desirable that we should have the island, and for its strategic position, it might possibly be acquired by purchase from the Chinese Government, to whom it is of no value. The rights of the scanty population of fishermen and squatters would have to be respected, but they could easily be compensated for whatever losses they might sustain by a cemetery of the former there. Thus, the island or three splendid sites on Lamau Island, where extensive cemeteries could be formed which would suffice for the needs of the colony for a century to come, even supposing the cemetery is not generally adopted long before that period arrives. The distance from the city to the cemetery would be greater than to Kowloon, but practically it would not be greater than to Kowloon, and a small but strong and good sea boat might be built to accept for the purpose of conveying funerals across. But, as we have said, before the scheme can be carried out, the island must have to be acquired, and the Government, in possession of the island, must be able to show that the objections to a cemetery there, such as among the hills at the back, would be serious or likely to endanger the health of residents either at Tsingtau or Yuenwai. It is different as to Tsingtau as regards the settlement of the peninsula from the metropolis of Hongkong, which lies in such positions as to make the track of monsoon breezes they reach the city of Victoria. In this case, the attention of the Government should be directed to this question of the cemetery, and investigation be made to ascertain how far it is responsible for the disease which has for so long been prevalent in the district. One thing at least is certain, the Chinese cemetery at Mount David should be closed and some other site found. A very superficial inquiry will soon disclose that the mode of sepulture is faulty, the site unsuitable, and the contiguity of the habitations dangerous to health. Some of the further inquiries necessary to be made are the folly of postponing the matter more especially as the population is daily increasing in the near neighbourhood of burial ground.

SUICIDES IN VICTORIA GAOL

The rider attached to the verdict of the coroner's jury in the inquest on the body of the Nantaua murderer will be commended to general approval, and the man committed to the gaol of the colony seems in the first place to have attempted to hang himself and then to have taken off his own life. Where he got the string and the opium is not proved, but the jury find that no one can be attached to the general pool of the community. Reasonable precautions insure a result itself and the evidence shows there were nothing like reasonable precautions taken. The occurrence is simply a coincidence. It occurs sometimes, but it is very seldom that prisoners on capital charges are afforded the opportunity of making away with themselves. Special precautions being taken, and these are not understood, these

Sometimes, notwithstanding these considerations, a condemned man will take the chance, and, although he has to be regarded as a desperado, he will invent means for his escape. In the case of the Chinese, however, a prisoner in a remote place only a few miles off-gauged by him, it appears that string can be procured from the tailor's shop, and that there is not much difficulty in getting opium. Would-be escapees have therefore a choice as to the means of their flight. That opium is smuggled into the goal is a matter of public notoriety and has been mentioned by the Commissioner. Commissioners that have at various times sat to inquire into the gal matters. All the while the practice seems to have not stopped, probably because they were not in the proper direction. So long as the Chinese officers employed in the goal will therefore be a risk of smuggling, the articles in the goal, the risk may be compared with European prisons, but with Chinese prisons, the risk may be much greater, as their comparison with the prisoners and their outside is likely to be closer and more than that of Europeans, to say not in the different views held by European discipline. Certainly it is that in the case the prisoner is chained to the wall himself with, and this notwithstanding

that the said authorities had been specially informed that he was likely to attempt to commit suicide. It was to the interest of the public that the numerous accomplices of the crime should be completely isolated, and, in addition, that no confession should be extracted from him at any price. No pains would be spared therefore to convey to him the necessary police, though not technically, to all intents and purposes he was a condemned man. A trial case of murder had been made out against him in the investigation at the magistracy, the papers had been sent up to the Government, in ordinary course and the Government would have confirmed the sentence of death. It could have followed from his execution. Under such circumstances the special watch ought to have been kept over him. There seems to have been some idea of taking special precautions, but what did they amount to? The prisoner was confined in a certain hall, "because there was no officer generally [but not always] here to look after him," and where it would seem to be had opportunities of communication with other prisoners, for Mr. Jones, the chief warder, is of opinion that he was the first with which he came in contact. He himself had been confined in a prisoner from the tailor's shop. It is evident from the disclosures made at the inquest that the administration of the gaol leaves much to be desired, notwithstanding the rider attached to the jury's verdict. If the jury were to be invited to express an opinion on the administration of the gaol the evidence placed before them was not only insufficient to enable them to do so, but in intelligent conclusion, and the prisoner committed suicide, it is clear, and there was

any suspicion, and forcibly deny any of the guilt officials are knowingly and willfully rendering assistance in doing so. There has come out in evidence that an officer had rendered such assistance it would have been the jury's duty to have found him guilty of murder, or if it had come out that an officer had supplied the prisoner with opium as a luxury but without felonious intent it would have been within their province to remark upon it in their verdict. But it was not within their province to enter on an inquiry into the administration of the galley, moral, and not having sufficient evidence before them it would have been better if they had refrained from expressing an opinion on this point and simply confined themselves to their verdict that the deceased committed suicide. The responsible chiefly rests with the Coroner, who asked the jury for an expression of opinion on a subject quite foreign to the inquiry. Mr. Wozniak said that self must see, we think, that the verdict that "no blame could be attached in the absence of evidence" to the duties of the different officers and the measure of responsibility attaching to each. *Prima facie* no opium can enter the gal without a breach of duty on somebody's part or a radical defect in the system. To establish the contrary very strong evidence would be required. If such evidence was produced at the request on Wednesday. Yet the jury felt that no blame attaches to any one, and that reasonable precautions must be taken, in other words, that the system is perfect—a finding which is contradicted by the very fact of the suicide having been committed.

THE MANAGEMENT OF THE
GOVERNMENT CIVIL
HOSPITAL.

The prospect of a radical reform and improvement in the management of the Government Civil Hospital is one which will be warmly welcomed. The hospital has always been, if not an absolute disgrace to the colony, at all events far from creditable enough to be. The late Superintendent, Dr. C. J. WHEARE, whose retirement in the early part of this year is greatly to be regretted. Yes, after Year Dr. WHEARE in his reports drew attention to the defects in the hospital, the shortness of its staff, and the want of carrying out of the most necessary and desirable reforms imposed. On this point he was veritable *vox clamantis*, and in official circles he incurred, we believe, no little odium by his troublesome insistence. Dr. WHEARE did much to bring the hospital up to a higher level, but the time has come when the Committee is limited. The Finance Committee in their report on the Estimate for next year, say:—“Some of the members of the Committee remark that, has come to their knowledge, that for some time past the general working of this hospital has been very defective, and the progress very slow.”

[illegible]

incident that, in this work he will find the sympathetic support of Sir William Des Voeux, who says he is already convinced of the advisability of getting out trouble from the female nurses: in fact later on in his report he intimates that he has practically come to a decision on the general question, and that only a point of detail remains to be settled. The judge of the following extract. The CHINESE nurses, the following extract. Dr. WHEATLEY's report for 1884:—"The continual trouble is experienced with the local students of attendants in the hospital. They are only paid six dollars a month and have a good deal of night watching in the wards besides regular work in the day time; it is no wonder if they are not very zealous in performing their duties and are anxious to remain in the service. It is hardly reasonable to expect common work at six dollars a month, to nurse the sick and to sit up at night with them."—The report for last year the same gentleman says:—"The Chinese staff in general worked fairly well; a small increase in several of the senior nurses has been beneficial effect." The conclusion that the Chinese staff have been very great, and the "fairly satisfactory" manner in which the Chinese staff in general did their work was dependent on very close surveillance.

the generality of obtaining the assistance of female nurses to replace the nurses made attendants either wholly or in great part. Dr. WHEATLEY strongly expressed the opinion that the work of the nurses to the capital staff, which was too heavy for one, could be better distributed. The register last year contained 239 cases, and when medical attendances there is added the administrative work of the department it will readily be seen that a strain on one man must be excessive. In last report Dr. WHEATLEY said that the growth of the medical staff of the capital was naturally increased, and there is no doubt that no medical officer is not now sufficient for the requirements of the establishment. That I have been able to carry the work so long is due to the obliging assistance. I trust that the recognized assistance of Mr. MARGUES in the Civil Department, and a satisfactory position in the department, accorded to him, Dr. WHEATLEY also expresses his thanks for the assistance of Mr. MARGUES and the capital staff, especially at operations. But he says that the capital staff ought to be increased to a strength sufficient for the ordinary work of the department without imposing too great a strain on the individual members of the staff.

CHEAP INSURANCE: FREQUENT FIRES.

The numerous fires which have occurred during the last week or two, almost at the commencement of the winter season, suggest anything but pleasant prognostications for the total during the remainder of the year. The fire Brigades have already, we hear, been talking of petitioning for an increase of pay, and it must certainly be allowed that one and a half dollars a month is very small remuneration for the work that has fallen upon them during the last fortnight. It is hardly necessary to sound alarm, while on the subject of fires, because, as we have already proved to be telling affairs, the number of big fires has been quite exceptional. The number of houses destroyed is over fifty, and these were not mere shanties but well built brick houses, and many of them with valuable contents. The great danger always exists of a fire during the day, but many is we have had lately it is impossible to avoid a suspicion that they cannot all be attributed to accident. The Chinese themselves do not mind matters, but openly express the opinion that the Government is to get the insurance money and the explanation of many of the fires. On Monday, when the contents of \$10,000 can be had for the contents of a Chin's house for \$775, with few questions asked, the temptation to upset a lamp certainly great. Cheap insurance is in itself a good thing, but it can only be purchased at too dear a cost to the community. However, there is no doubt that insurance is cheap and convenient, and it behooves a prudent merchant to take steps to insure his condition of things. There has during the last few years been a very notable improvement in the fire brigades both as regards efficiency and appliances;

think, with advantage be distributed, one at least being stationed in the eastern district and one in the western, instead of all being

Then something might be done in regard to the Chinese how to direct their engine on the scene and to have generally a manual, which might do some good in keeping the adjoining houses wet and so preventing the spreading of the flames, but the idea of the Chinese men seems to be to play their hose where the fire is burning most strongly and to throw the small stream of water over the flames and not the big stream. And even when the brigades have arrived there is still something of the same tendency to be observed, outbreaks in neighbouring houses being neglected until they have gained considerable way. We have noticed on several occasions that the recent fire has been confined within narrow limits by a more judicious application of the water available. Another point which deserves some attention is the regulation of the numerous private salaried corps. European men belonging to these corps are sometimes used or ordered to fight if they are of some use or allowed to pass the Police and get into the scene of the fire, but very often they are turned back along with the general crowd. Certainly they do not seem to be of much

**THE DANGERS OF CHINESE COCK
FLOPS.**

The instantly fatal fire which occurred on Thursday evening brings into startling relief the latent danger in which a large proportion of the population of Hongkong live. Nearly all Chinese houses in the colony have mezzanine floors or skylights, from which the escape in the case of fire is cut off by the stairs is absolutely impossible. There are no windows, as a rule, in these places, and the air-holes are not large enough to allow a person's body to pass through. It is remembered, too, that the floor below is generally divided by thin wooden partitions affording material for the rapid spread of fire. It is surprising that there have not been u-

cases of persons occupying these cocklofts failing to escape when the fire alarm had been given. As far as can be gathered from the evidence given at the inquest, it would have been no possibility of saving the lives of the persons burnt the first at Night Court, had it not been for the fact that the fire was inside. Lo Chi Hing, the occupant of the cockloft who escaped, said he heard the fire; he called out to himself and ran down into the street, and as soon as he got there he saw that the fire was on fire. Had he been a few seconds later, therefore, he also would have been unable to save himself. Another man went up to try to get his wife and child down, but he was unable to get them down, and perished in the flames. Sergeant HALL, who appeared to have been the first policeman on the scene, says that when he arrived the front of the house on the top floor was burning fiercely. The floor of the cockloft must therefore have been in flames and the unfortunate people who lost their lives must have been unable to get out. Sergeant HALL says that about three or four men got down the stairs, from the top, were on fire at that time escape from the first floor, even would have been impossible, and the step to the cockloft, leading from the first floor, and which could not be seen from the street, must have been entangled

in connection with this case altogether. The Chinese are naturally more inclined to have been satisfied with the man rescued. The Chinese fire brigades which is often the case, but we fail to see any foundation for the present instance. To CHU HING, the man alluded to, heard of the fire, he did not himself, and rushed down the stairs as quickly as he could, which, it must be confessed, was a very natural proceeding. The other occupants of the house probably did not know of the fire until he came out, and his wife as well as to CHU HING, and he acted upon it with the same alacrity. It is possibly some of them who might have escaped lost their chance by staying to help up their effects. The risk to which these will expose themselves in order to save their property is well known, and was recorded in the recent fire at Canton, and it was with this great difficulty they were rescued by the Police from running the most imminent danger. The loss of which occurred in the fire of Thorsday was deeply to be deplored, but no blame was attached to any one in connection with it. It was, as far as can be ascertained, entirely accidental. But the fire is considered a great danger, not only to the Chinese, but to the sleeping chambers, which is the difficulty of getting water in of emergency on the higher levels. Now the pressure on the house accommodation has become so great, the Chinese, like Europeans, on less, in degree, are being crowded up the hill, and fires on the higher levels may naturally be expected to be frequent than they have been in the past. It is therefore suggested that the Fire Department should take into consideration as far as possible provide for. At present there is necessarily great loss of time before water can be procured in such quantities. The fire in Pound Lane had doubtless burst itself out before any considerable stream was brought to bear upon it.

REPRESENTATIVE UNOFFICIAL
MEMBERS OF COUNCIL.

The small measure of representation in theVERNMENT granted to Hongkong at the instance of Sir GEORGE BOWEN is, we note, to be extended to the Colony of the Straits Settlements. The Acting Colonial Secretary has addressed a letter to the Colonial Secretary of the Colonies, informing them that he has received in receipt of instructions from the Secretary of State, which enable him to request the Chamber to nominate a member for the vacancy in the Legislative Council which has been occasioned through the resignation of Mr. CURRIEMORE. There is, however, a condition attached to this nomination which differs from that which is contained in this bill, inasmuch as it limits the appointment to three years, instead of six, in Hongkong, with a right of re-nomination. This is, however, an advantage in favour of the Jurors, since if, for any chance, the unofficial member should cease to represent the views of the Chamber they could replace him at the end of his term. This is, we think, a true statement, and we well that the unofficial members should feel that they are not necessarily tied to the Chamber, and that they must keep touch with their constituents. The same rule will probably be applied to Hongkong.

It is not stated whether the Bench of the Justices of Singapore will also be asked to nominate a member to the Legislative Council, but, if so, we do not doubt this.

If the Singapore Chamber of Commerce and the British Jurors should be asked to nominate, however, they will ask that the British Jurors should not be asked to be entrusted with this nomination. We do not know how it may be in Singapore, but in Hongkong it happens that at all, or almost all, the British members of the Chamber of Commerce are also Justices of the Peace, and are, in fact, practically the same persons as both members. And the Chamber of Commerce is only about one-third of the Justices, being officials, are not expected to take part in the nomination. If it is desired that the member should be really representative, the British Jurors should be allowed to make the nomination. The Jurors have much disagreeable unpaid duty to perform, and no privilege of being present at the Justices, and are not included in the Jury List, and should not therefore be disfranchised if the nomination of the second member were entrusted to the Jurors. The Jury List represents all classes of the community with the exception of clergymen, doctors, solicitors, apothecaries, and the members of the Press, who are exempted from serving on the Jury, but who would be included in the list of the Jurors. We commend the foregoing suggestion to the attention of His Excellency the GOVERNOR.

HONGKONG LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

A meeting of the Legislative Council was held on the 30th ult. There were present:—
His EXCELLENCY the GOVERNOR, Sir WILLIAM DE Vaux, K.C.M.G.
Hon. F. STURTEVANT, Colonial Secretary.
Hon. E. J. ACKROYD, Acting Attorney-General.
Hon. A. LISTER, Colonial Treasurer.
Hon. J. M. PRICE, Surveyor-General.
Hon. WONG SHING.
Hon. A. P. MACLEWEN.
Hon. J. BELL-IRVING.
Mr. A. SETH, Clerk of Councils.

MINUTES.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

FINANCE.

Minutes by the Governor recommending the Council to vote the following sums were referred to the Finance Committee—\$22,000 for repairs to buildings; \$3,915 for the pay of the fire contingents; \$10,000 for the steam launch, \$250 contingents for expenses connected with the celebration of Her Majesty's jubilee, including the service in the Cathedral, the illumination of Government buildings, the purchase of flowers and fireworks; \$325 for general overhaul and repairs to the Health Office steam-launch; *Blanche* and temporary assistance of another launch; \$200 for the employees of the Health Office; \$1,000 for the purchase of Live Stock; \$1,100 for salary and allowances of a surveyor of the Public Works department; \$3,913 for repairs of damage caused by labor in the city; \$2,000 for the celebration of the rainy season in the year; \$4,622.76, being arrears of the contentions voted in 1885 and 1886 to the expenditure of the Colonial and Indian Office; \$2,000 for the purchase of new posts and rails on the Pareira ground.

THE FINANCE COMMITTEE.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY laid on the table the report of the Finance Committee on Estimates.

HIS EXCELLENCY—I may say with regard to the Finance Committee, although I cannot minutely lay my plan before the Council this morning, may very clearly for giving very much greater publicity to the proceedings of the Executive Committee—I won't say at the present moment absolute publicity, for there are occasional occasions, as there are in the House of Commons in the British Empire, when it is desirable that all strangers should withdraw. It is absolutely foreign to the House of Commons that strangers should be ordered to withdraw. Therefore I won't say absolute publicity, but I think I may say that very much greater publicity, that is to say, if it be approved by

be consulted before a change in the rules could be made. With regard to the work of the Finance Committee, the Chairman of the Harbour Office and the Treasury have a telephone exchange. I consent in the absence of that suggestion, and I am now called for to report on the expenditure of the Civil Hospital. The Civil Hospital have myself had strong reason to doubt that working has been by any means satisfactory. Things have come to my attention which lead me to be satisfied, but I have no satisfactory, working. At the same time I have not thought it advisable at the present time to have a commission of inquiry. For the reasons I have just mentioned, I think it is probable are no longer amenable to say there is no officer at this moment in connection with the hospital who could be held responsible for what has happened. I am sure that the people in charge of the hospital are very much aware, just got on my way, and I am sure that the medical officers and the nursing officers who are responsible for what has occurred are in great deal of a very serious position. Now, as I say, the Civil Hospital has a very good reputation. I think that I have been very strongly impressed by the very strong desire of the Civil Hospital to place things in a better condition and I think it would be a waste of time to wait a commission of inquiry. I would give a deal of trouble and very little good to no more good than he will be able to do himself. He has impressed on me that it is a very serious question. I say say with regard to one of the members of the Committee consider demands that I am already carrying out. I am sure that the question of the Civil Hospital is only a question at the present time of whether they should be trained in some of the nursing Orders or should be selected from what has now been the case in London. The question of whether they would be best for circumstances and likely to answer best. I think before long, subject to the approval of the Council, I shall ask the Council to consider something like really good into our Civil Hospital.

the Council went into Committee on the Sup-
plementary Bill for 1896 which

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THE APPROPRIATION BILL F R 1888.
The Council went into committee on the Ap-

Hon. A. P. MacGOWEN—Under the head of "Judicial" I would ask whether anything has been done with reference to interpreters. I drew attention at this time last year to the very unsatisfactory state of affairs in this colony with regard to interpretation. At the Supreme Court there is really only one competent European interpreter, and all the interpreters at the Magistracy are Chinese. A Commission was appointed to consider the question, and their report was sent up to the Government some little time ago, in which it was strongly recommended that interpreters should be trained and that at any rate

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Agents. This is a matter I also alluded to a little this time last year. I think it would be desirable that instead of placing all orders for supplies for this colony in the hands of the Crown Agents, tenders should be called for in the colony, in order to support local enterprise. Of course I don't mean to say that if prices here compare unfavorably with prices at home, or if the Government cannot be done so well as the Crown Agents, that the Government should be desirous to place such orders in the colony. But to refer to small matters that came under my notice: some cranks were required for the gaol; the requisition was placed before the Finance Committee, and the order was sent home to the Crown Agents. I think that is the principle followed in the Colony, and it would be satisfactory and support local enterprise if tenders could be called for here for what is required for the Colony instead

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ask is that likely to meet the whole of the expenditure required for the forts?

"I cannot say," I believe it is said to sufficient, but I understand the same thing as seen before and this demand has been put upon us unexpectedly.

"The SECRETARY explained that the bill under consideration was the ordinary extra-vote and that the extraordinary expenditure was in another part of the estimate. He said we may not be exactly in time to speak on this point now, but I do hope we have the opportunity of discussing it if we have to come forward on some such issue. We have a margin there may be an attempt at more out of us."

"He Bill was thus read a third time and passed. The Government were victorious. It has just struck me that I might have said something about this question. I said just now may be upon no misapprehension. It may seem open to criticism that there should be any idea of reducing the revenue, but I think only on one year's revenue, but I have in my mind not only the reduction for extraordinary works out of a loan but also the reduction of the revenue but also the reduced amount we expect from the opium re-

The Council adjourned sine die.

The report of the proceedings of the Finance Committee at a meeting held on the 19th November was presented to the Legislative Council on the 30th ult. —

Present:—The Hon. the Colonial Secretary Frederick Sturges, Chairman; the Hon. the Attorney General (Edward James Gifford); the Hon. the Colonial Treasurer (Frederick Lister); the Hon. the Surveyor General (Marianne Price); the Hon. Henry George (James Russell), etc. The Hon. Wong Shing, the Hon. Anthony Lee, the Hon. the Hon. Frederick S. Masson, on leave; the Hon. Alexander Palmer MacEwen; the Hon. John Bell, on leave.

About—His Honour the Chief Justice (James Russell), etc. His Honour George Phillips, on leave; the Hon. Phineas Robinson, on leave.

The Committee met this day at the request of the Colonial Secretary.

been taken as read. is confirmed.
(1.)

The Committee consider the Bill to authorize the appropriation of a supplementary sum of Rs. 2,46,300 to defray the charges for the year 1886. After explanation by the Colonial Secretary of the various items stated in detail in the Supplementary Estimates for 1886, the Committee recommend that the amount mentioned in the Bill be approved.

The Committee desire, however, to call attention to the advisability of obtaining from the Military Authorities a detailed statement of the amounts expended for fortifications. (See item Extraordinary Military Defence at page 6 of

(2.)

ESTIMATES FOR 1888.

The Committee has proceeded to consider the Bill to apply a sum not exceeding Rs.176,449 to the public service of the year 1888.

After explanation by the Colonial Secretary of the various increases and decreases to some of the various Estimates of the previous year and given in detail in the statement accompanying these Estimates, prepared by the Colonial Secretary and Auditor-General, the Committee made the following recommendations:—

(3.)

STRENGTH GENERAL ESTABLISHMENT.

(page 2.)

The Committee has been informed that provision has inadvertently been omitted to be made for the salary and allowances of a Land Bailiff. The Committee are informed that the services of the Bailiff are necessary to prevent unlicensed squatting in the Rural Districts, and are assured by the Treasurer that the expenses incurred in this respect will not be more than the cost of the systematic collection of the Rates, &c., which, under the present system,

the Harbours and the Fisheries, and the Department of Lands and Colonies. Under these circumstances, the Committee recommended the insertion of the following items:—
Salary for a Land Bailiff, \$1,440 per annum.
Allowance for conveyance, \$288 per annum.
There is also added, salary of 6 Foremen of Street Cleaners at \$200 each, \$1,800, rising to \$360 each after two years.

(4.)

HARBOUR MASTER'S ESTABLISHMENT (page 21).
On considering the vote for the office of the Harbour Master, the Committee recommended that the Superintendent of Imports and Exports, Mr. MacEwen, inform the Committee, that he has been authorized by several of the leading merchants to bring to the notice of the Government the desirability of connecting the Harbour Office with the Treasury with the Telephone Exchange as the communications of several of the leading

